

Michigan Denture Reform Committee
5840 Sterling Drive, Ste.120
Howell, MI 48843

November 7th, 2008

To: Michigan's Leaders

Re: Failure To Act

Governor Granholm, Attorney General Michael Cox, and all Michigan's Senators and State Representatives:

We are informing you once again, concerning the plight of over one million denture sufferers in the state of Michigan. We have informed you on numerous occasions about the deplorable state of dentistry's lack of denture training and of their incompetence to provide adequate denture care. We have informed you that Michigan's denture wearers continue to suffer due to severe abuse at the hands of dentistry. We have appealed to you many times to enact legislation so that Michigan's denture wearing population can have the freedom to patronize board certified denturists, without having to go through organized dentistry's untrained gatekeepers. As a collective body, you have not acknowledged our plea with the exception of a few token replies, nor has anyone done anything to improve our situation.

Michigan has allowed dentistry to strip away the denture training and board testing that Michigan dentists once had to go through to become licensed. This was something that gradually took place over the past 50 years; to the point that today's dentists are no longer qualified for clinical denture practice or to evaluate denture casework returned by denture laboratories.

We are once more, knocking at your doors to seek relief of this unscrupulous monopolistic nightmare that our state has allowed to take place. We have sent all of you facts pertaining to these issues, which have been derived from countless hours of research, discussions, hearings and official health reports from both state and federal levels, and from dentistry's own research, periodicals and official reports. **The facts support clear evidence that dentistry is untrained and unable to meet the challenge of denture care for Michigan's citizens.** The facts also, support clear evidence of a safe and superior denture

delivery system that is available to the public through trained and board certified or licensed denturists.

To add to our plight, Michigan allowed a channel to be created in which dentistry is exploiting Michigan's defenseless denture wearers, telling the vast majority of them that they do not have enough bone on their jaws to support dentures, that dentures will **not** work for them, and that the **only** way dentures are going to work for them is if they go to a dentist and have implants surgically placed into their jaws; at over \$10,000 per patient (sometimes as much as \$30,000); creating hundreds of millions annually for themselves, through this scam alone. The most despicable part is that if dentistry fails in preserving the patient's natural teeth, sometimes at the expense of tens of thousands of dollars, they can blame the patient for neglect and reward themselves another time; this time providing implant dentures. How much of its wealth is dentistry sharing with the legislators to have them ignore our plea? It is common knowledge that a large number of Michigan's legislators have country club buddies who are rich dentists. Is that why the poor denture wearers have gotten a deaf ear for so long and must continue to suffer?

Dentistry reports that severe periodontal disease is clearly linked to heart disease and people who have it are at high risk of having heart attacks. Yet, they have sent tens of thousands of these very patients home to die, because they can't afford to buy into the implant scam. This would not be the case if these patients were given the freedom to receive quality denture care, apart from the need of implant surgery, through highly trained board qualified denturists.

Instead, Michigan has also allowed out-of-state corporate store front franchise dental practice scams to operate and lure these same victims, gingivitis sufferers, into their practices, using bait and switch tactics (dentures as low as \$200) to trick them into paying, usually \$7,000 through smooth credit plan tactics, for poor ill-fitting dentures fitted by dentists with no expertise, made at their out of state corporate labs, not to mention that unbeknownst to their patients, their partial frames, crowns and bridges are being sent to China. Thus, the state of Michigan leaves only two choices for its denture wearers: substandard storefront dentures or implant dentures, which are overly expensive and do not always give satisfactory results; leaving no practical choice for most of its consumers.

Michigan's leaders have continuously ignored this critical issue; **however**, there is clear evidence that the information we have been giving you is valid. We have already informed you using the following documents: The U.S. Surgeon General's report entitled, The State of America's Oral Health - 2000, the American Dental Association, Resource Committee's "Future of Dentistry - 2000", the Federal Trade Commission report Sale of Dentures in the U.S., the "Solution to America's Denture Crisis" by Everett Van den Eeden, D.D.M., C.D., C.D.T., and the official Michigan report concerning the urgent need for denturist practice: The Independent Practice of Denturists: A Way to Provide Safe

Dentures at a Lower Cost to Consumers - #7, August 1985, by the Director of Health and Medical Affairs. You have all been informed several times. Through this letter, as a collective body, you are hearing our plea once again.

It is public record that, in 2007, shortly after the citizens and the denturists requested your help, that a number of you accepted large campaign contributions from organized dentistry, and who knows what some accepted under the table. So, Michigan's poor denture sufferers are crying for your help one more time. ***We have abundant evidence to support our claims. On the other hand, dentistry has never been able to produce one single stitch of empirical evidence to support its claims in opposition to safe denturist practice,*** nor has it ever been able to produce one documented piece of evidence that in the entire U.S., in over 30 years of practice that a denturist has ever harmed a denture patient. This letter will be filed along with all of the others that we previously sent to you in hopes that you will give Michigan's denture wearers justice.

On top of the plight that the state of Michigan has created for its denture wearers, it has had the audacity to allow its Department of Community Health to continue investigating, stalking and interrogating its denture victims along with their denturists and the dentists who provide their oral examinations and work authorizations, and continues to allow its courts to prosecute and penalize denturists for "illegal practice of dentistry"; while its leaders continue to take enormous campaign contributions from organized dentistry. Denturists seem to be the only ones who have displayed compassion and courage toward Michigan's denture sufferers. We are appalled that the state of Michigan has created such a terrible situation for its denture victims; its leaders should be ashamed.

We challenge all of you, if you really are interested in doing something about this tragedy, to contact us with sincere and serious motives, being actively willing to fix the problem, once and for all, ending our plight. We first of all, request that Michigan's investigative and policing forces and its courts immediately cease from interfering with our obtaining denture relief and remedy from denturists. Secondly, we are pleading with you to regulate denturist practice in Michigan. ***We don't need token letters; we need Michigan's leaders to create a real solution for its denture wearers, denturistry.*** This is no time for politics as usual. This is not a time to ask what other legislators have done; it's time to stand up, as individuals, and ask: "What can I do to remedy the current disaster?" We are making complete information available to you at no charge. To receive information, documents or a copy of the proposed denturist act, please refer to the contact information above

Respectfully yours,

The Michigan Denture Reform Committee